

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	Steen, Turkey Land Use License
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	1/15/2008
<b>Proponent:</b>	David Steen
<b>Location:</b>	T15N, R5W, Sec.34
<b>County:</b>	Lewis & Clark

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

**A. Type of Action:** Turkey shelter and watering devices.

Proponent is requesting a Land Use License to construct one temporary shelter (not to exceed 15'x30'), for the purpose of housing up to 30 turkeys. Additionally, two small containers would be necessary next to this shelter to provide water. This Land Use License would encompass 6 acres of State Trust Lands in T15N, R5W, Section 34, Lewis & Clark County, Montana.

The proposed action could be implemented as early as January 15, 2008.

### II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

#### 1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

*Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.*

Due to the small nature of this project and anticipated minimal impacts to the landscape, public comment was not sought.

#### 2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

Information on Game Bird Farm License was sought from Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks website, which states the following:

A person may not own, control, or propagate game birds for sale or conveyance of those game birds or parts thereof unless he holds a current game bird farm license from the department. Game birds are defined as sharptailed grouse, blue grouse, spruce (Franklin) grouse, prairie chicken, sage hen or sage grouse, ruffed grouse, ring-necked pheasant, Hungarian partridge, ptarmigan, wild turkey, and chukar partridge.

Game bird farm licensees are authorized to raise and sell game birds or parts of game birds. The game bird farm licensee is responsible for assuring that the individual to whom game birds are being sold has the appropriate permit allowing for possession of those game birds and to record the permit number in the "Game Bird Farm Report Book." Each licensee is required to keep records of the number and species of birds purchased, transferred, or sold and the name of each person to whom or from whom such birds were purchased, transferred, or sold. Those reports, along with the license renewal fee, must be submitted to the department each year on January 31 to renew the game bird farm license.

A game bird farm license does not allow game birds to be released. All game birds on a game bird farm must be contained in an enclosure that is adequate to prevent the entry of wild game birds and to prevent the escape of game bird farm birds into the wild.

Under MCA 87-4-902, Exemption, the above game bird farm license would not apply to a person who owns, controls, or propagates game birds for purposes other than sale or conveyance of game birds or parts thereof and who notifies the department and receives its written authorization and exemption or is the holder of a migratory game bird avicultural permit under MCA 87-2-207.

It is the responsibility of the proponent to obtain all necessary state and federal permits required.

<http://fwp.mt.gov/insidefwp/departments/enforcement/permitting/birdfarm.html>

---

### 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

---

#### 3.1 Description of Alternatives:

This section describes the activities of the No Action Alternative and all other Action Alternatives.

##### 3.1.1 Alternative A: Deferred Land Use License Request (No Action)

###### 3.1.1.1 Principle Actions: Alternative A

- **Fire Suppression** - human and natural caused fires would be suppressed by the DNRC, volunteer fire departments, and other government agencies.
- **Hunting** - deer, elk, bear, other big game hunting, as well as upland game bird hunting would continue according to the rules and regulations set forth by Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Beginning in 2004, purchase of a conservation license will also authorize use of accessible trust lands for hunting and fishing.
- **Public Vehicle Access** - existing motorized access privileges, as well as limitations, would remain the same. Currently this section is not accessible to unauthorized motorized use, as existing roads are either obstructed or gated.
- **Hiking and Other Recreational Uses** - persons having a valid State Trust Land Recreational Use Permit are welcome to hike, pick chokecherries, or perform other outdoor activities on this acreage.

##### 3.1.2 Alternative B: Steen Land Use License:

###### 3.1.2.1 Principle Actions: Alternative B

If Alternative B were selected for implementation, the following actions would occur:

- Construction of one temporary shelter not to exceed 15' x 30' for the purpose of providing shelter to not more than 30 turkeys.
- Two temporary containers to hold either water/food would be allowed in close proximity to the shelter. Each container would not exceed 15 ft<sup>2</sup> in size.
- All manure and other debris associated with this Land Use License would be removed from State Trust Lands in a timely manner and deposited properly.
- Motorized vehicle use for the management of this lease would be allowed on the existing road within the licensed area, as defined on the David Steen, LUL map for

“normal”, “short term” activities only. Parking along the road to deliver feed and then leaving again would be an example of a “normal”, “short term” activity. Motorized vehicle use off the existing road would not be allowed.

- Temporary structures would be placed a minimum of 35 feet from existing road within licensed area, as defined on the David Steen, LUL map to avoid conflicts with other authorized motorized use of this road.
- To maintain water quality, all temporary structures/feeding areas would not be placed closer than 100 feet of the existing stream channel. This should preserve established vegetation and reduce sediment runoff.
- If a foot bridge to cross the stream channel is proposed, a 310 permit would be required, and is the responsibility of the licensee to obtain.
- As defined in MCA 36.25.149, General Recreation Use of State Lands: Restrictions, Part “C”:

*A recreationist shall use firearms in a careful and prudent manner. A recreationist may not negligently, as defined in MCA 45-2-101 (37), discharge a firearm on State Lands or discharge a firearm within ¼ mile of an inhabited dwelling or of an outbuilding in close proximity to an inhabited dwelling without permission of an inhabitant. Temporary absence of inhabitants does not render a dwelling uninhabited.*

This “no shooting zone” has been identified on the David Steen, LUL map.

- Noxious weed management within the 6-acre Land Use License area is the responsibility of the licensee.
- It is the responsibility of the licensee to obtain all State and Federal permits that are required for Game Bird Farms, as well as any other necessary permits/license.
- The duration of this Land Use License will be for three years, at a rate of \$180.00 per year (6 acres x \$500.00/acre x 6%).
- Upon termination of this Land Use License, soil that is void of vegetation, such as underneath the coop, would be seeded with appropriate grass seed mixtures.

### III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter “NONE” If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

#### 4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

*Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.*

Due to the small scope of this project, minimal impacts to the soil are expected. Any soil disturbance that would occur, such as underneath the turkey coop, would be grass seeded with an appropriate mixture upon termination of this Land Use License.

---

**5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:**

*Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.*

---

Degradation to the class 1 stream that flows through the proposed 6-acre Land Use License area is expected to be minimal. To maintain water quality, all temporary structures/feeding areas would not be placed closer than 100 feet of the existing stream channel. This should preserve established vegetation, reduce sediment runoff, and move concentrations of birds away from the creek.

If a foot bridge to cross the stream channel is proposed, a 310 permit would be required, and is the responsibility of the licensee to obtain.

---

**6. AIR QUALITY:**

*What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.*

---

Implementation of the proposed project should have no effect on air quality.

---

**7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:**

*What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.*

---

Vegetative communities should remain in tact due to the small nature and scope of the proposed project. Any disturbance to existing vegetation, such as under the turkey coop would be grass seeded with appropriate mixtures upon termination of this Land Use License. Area of disturbance is expected to be minimal due to the size of the coop (15x30) and amount of turkeys (maximum of 30) allowed on site.

---

**8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:**

*Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.*

---

Substantial impacts to habitat values are not expected. Use of this area by existing wildlife, birds, and fish should not change dramatically. All required state and federal permits/licenses such as, but not limited to, a game bird farm license is the responsibility of the licensee to obtain.

---

**9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:**

*Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.*

---

Due to the small scope of the proposed project, cumulative effects to endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources are not expected.

---

**10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**

*Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.*

---

Effects to historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources are not expected due to the scope and nature of the proposed project.

---

**11. AESTHETICS:**

*Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.*

---

The proposed project area has no public access and is not visible from populated or scenic areas. Change to the surrounding landscape should mostly remain the same, with the addition of a 15x30 foot turkey coop. Because this coop will be located in the bottom of drainage, it should not be visible from the surrounding area.

Noise levels may increase from the current condition due to the nature of the proposed project (gobbling turkeys). However, due to the relatively remote location of this tract, negative impacts to the surrounding environment should be tolerable.

---

**12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:**

*Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.*

---

Effects to environmental resources are not expected, with current conditions remaining the same.

---

**13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:**

*List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.*

---

Past management on this section of State Trust Lands consists of timber harvesting to regenerate lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir. Implementation of the proposed project should not significantly change the current condition of this tract.

---

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</li><li>• Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</li><li>• Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</li></ul>

---

---

**14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

*Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.*

---

No significant change is expected from the implementation of the project.

---

**15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:**

*Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.*

---

No significant change is expected from the implementation of the project.

---

**16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:**

*Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.*

---

No measurable cumulative impacts are expected on employment from the execution of this alternative action due to the relatively small scope of this project.

---

**17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:**

*Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.*

---

No measurable cumulative impacts are expected on tax revenues from the execution of this alternative action due to the relatively small DNRC timber sale program.

---

**18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:**

*Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services*

---

There should be no measurable cumulative impacts related to demand for government services due to the relatively small scope of the proposed project.

---

**19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:**

*List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.*

---

Implementation of this project should not impact locally adopted environmental plans and goals.

---

**20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:**

*Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.*

---

Persons having a valid State Trust Land Recreational Use Permit are welcome to hike or perform other approved outdoor activities. Beginning in 2004, purchase of a conservation license will authorize use of accessible Trust Lands for hunting and fishing. Implementation of the proposed alternative should have minimal effect on recreational opportunities.

---

**21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:**

*Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.*

---

There will be no measurable, cumulative impacts related to population as a result of implementing this proposed project.

---

**22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:**

*Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.*

---

Not Applicable.

---

**23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:**

*How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?*

---

Not Applicable.

---

**24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:**

*Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.*

---

Implementation of this Land use License should result in \$180.00 annually (6 acres x \$500.00/acre x 6%). Some revenue percentage from the General Recreational Use License as well as the newly adopted Conservation License may also be attributed to this tract, although this revenue probably is quite small.

No negative, cumulative economic or social effects are anticipated as a result of the proposed action.

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Shawn Morgan	<b>Date:</b> 1/2/2008
	<b>Title:</b> Helena Unit Forester	

---

**V. FINDING**

---

---

**25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:**

---

I have selected the proposed alternative to grant a Land Use License to David Steen, provided specifications listed below are adhered to.

- Construction of one temporary shelter not to exceed 15' x 30' for the purpose of providing shelter to not more than 30 turkeys.
- Two temporary containers to hold either water/food would be allowed in close proximity to the shelter. Each container would not exceed 15 ft<sup>2</sup> in size.
- All manure and other debris associated with this Land Use License would be removed from State Trust Lands in a timely manner and deposited properly.
- Motorized vehicle use for the management of this lease would be allowed on the existing road within the licensed area, as defined on the David Steen, LUL map for "normal", "short term" activities only. Parking along the road to deliver feed and then leaving again would be an example of a "normal", "short term" activity. Motorized vehicle use off the existing road would not be allowed.
- Temporary structures would be placed a minimum of 35 feet from existing road within licensed area, as defined on the David Steen, LUL map to avoid conflicts with other authorized motorized use of this road.
- To maintain water quality, all temporary structures/feeding areas would not be placed closer than 100 feet of the existing stream channel. This should preserve established vegetation and reduce sediment runoff.
- If a foot bridge to cross the stream channel is proposed, a 310 permit would be required, and is the responsibility of the licensee to obtain.
- As defined in MCA 36.25.149, General Recreation Use of State Lands: Restrictions, Part "C":

*A recreationist shall use firearms in a careful and prudent manner. A recreationist may not negligently, as defined in MCA 45-2-101 (37), discharge a firearm on State Lands or discharge a firearm within ¼ mile of an inhabited dwelling or of an outbuilding in close proximity to an inhabited dwelling without permission of an inhabitant. Temporary absence of inhabitants does not render a dwelling uninhabited.*

This “no shooting zone” has been identified on the David Steen, LUL map.

- Noxious weed management within the 6-acre Land Use License area is the responsibility of the licensee.
- It is the responsibility of the licensee to obtain all State and Federal permits that are required for Game Bird Farms, as well as any other necessary permits/license.
- The duration of this Land Use License will be for three years, at a rate of \$180.00 per year (6 acres x \$500.00/acre x 6%).
- Upon termination of this Land Use License, soil that is void of vegetation, such as underneath the coop, would be seeded with appropriate grass seed mixtures.

---

## 26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

---

Measures Recommended To Mitigate Potential Impacts: None expected. See Section 25 of this document, mitigation measures.

---

## 27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

---

<input type="checkbox"/>	EIS	<input type="checkbox"/>	More Detailed EA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No Further Analysis
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	------------------	-------------------------------------	---------------------

---

<b>EA Checklist Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	D.J.Bakken
	<b>Title:</b>	Helena Unit Manager
<b>Signature:</b> /s/ Darrel J. Bakken		<b>Date:</b> 1/3/2008



David Steen ~ LUL  
T15N, R5W, Section 34

